



Farm Philosophy

By
Newton Bair

THE 16 BILLION YEAR-OLD UNIVERSE

The Earth we inhabit is only a tiny speck of dust in the Cosmos. If someone in the center of our Galaxy would try to find the Earth with the most powerful telescope that exists, our Earth could not be seen.

Since life began, Man has looked outward to the heavens and wondered. The Stars seemed to be fixed in space, never moving in relation to each other, but moving as a single body from East to West across the night sky. He wondered about a few of those "stars" that seemed to move about among the

others at an almost predictable rate and direction. Planets differed in size, brightness and color. At first they seemed to revolve about the Earth, with Earth as the center of everything. It is a part of our ego that makes us the center, with all else revolving about us! We now know how silly that is. Or is it?

Well, we are learning that the Universe is much more complex than we thought. Cosmic space can no longer be measured by the simple math used by Sir Isaac Newton and Galileo. Our units of time and distance must be expanded to accommodate its greatness. Distance is measured in

Light Years. The Universal Constant in nature is the speed of light, which is 186,000 miles per second. If the nearest star to the sun should explode or disappear today, we wouldn't see it happen until four years later! The Super Nova or exploding star that was recently observed by astronomers, actually blew up over two thousand years ago, but the light just got to us now.

The Milky Way Galaxy, of which our Solar system is a small part, is hundreds of thousands of light years in diameter. On a dark night, with no city lights to interfere, we can see the bright glow from the billions of stars and suns that inhabit the far reaches of the Milky Way. Some of those stars are bigger than our entire solar system, but they are so distant that we see only their collective glow, rather than single points of light. There are many thousands of Galaxies similar to ours. Some are so vast in size that they can be seen with binoculars, even though they are unbelievably distant. Space travel, as imagined by Science-fiction writers, is unthinkable, by all the laws of nature we presently understand. It would take the span of many generations, not single lifetimes, to travel to other parts of our galaxy. And many more millennia to try to reach another

galaxy. Assuming, of course, that we could travel at a speed approaching that of light, which we have little hope of doing.

Now, another amazing truth is that all of these heavenly bodies are in motion. The sky never seems to change, yet every star and every galaxy is moving at incredible speed. Yes, we can see the moon encircle the Earth every month, and the Earth complete its orbit around the sun every year. But what we find hard to believe is that our star, the Sun, also travels about the Milky Way. The distance is so great that it takes about 200 million years to make one complete circle!

Scientists who study the Cosmos, and who made these marvelous observations, have concluded

that there are indeed other dimensions to the Universe beside length, width and height. One dimension is time. There may even be other dimensions as yet undiscovered. One intriguing theory is that ever since the Big Bang, the Creation indeed, the whole Universe is expanding at a tremendous rate. It appears that the galaxies farthest removed from ours are traveling the fastest. It further appears that there may be a curve in their trajectory, like the surface of a sphere.

Try to recapture the wonder and glory of the Shepherds, who named the stars and planets and constellations. Look at the sky, and savor the beauty and wonder of Creation!

Atlantic District Locals To Meet

SOUTHAMPTON — The Morgantown and Kimberton Locals of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative District 8 will hold their annual dinner meeting March 24 at 7 p.m. at the Ridge Fire Hall near Bucktown.

Dr. Paul E. Hand, Atlantic's secretary and general manager, will be the guest speaker. Dr. Hand will report on cooperative business

and dairy issues.

During the meeting, elections will be held for officers and delegates for the coming year. In addition, 25-year membership awards will be presented to the Titus S. Kurtz family, Elverson, and District 8 Director Andrew D. Stoltzfus, Morgantown.

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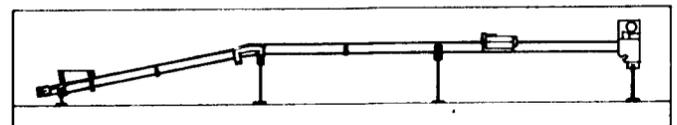
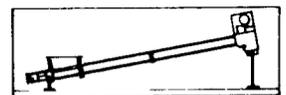
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